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# TECHNICAL NOTES

*7a* LAKE STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

(no. 567)

No. 567

SFP 1 - 1959

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Veneer Log Production Declines Sharply in Lake States  
as Result of Mill Closures, 1958

A recent survey completed by the Station shows that veneer log production in the Lake States amounted to approximately 53 million board feet in 1958 (see table on reverse side). This cut is one-third less than in 1956 and is the smallest recorded since the mid-thirties. Of the three states, Michigan showed the greatest decline in production, decreasing 50 percent from 1956. The decline in Wisconsin was only 22 percent. Minnesota production, on the other hand, registered a slight increase.

Fifteen of the 90 veneer mills in the region have closed down operations since the mid-fifties. Twelve of these were container veneer plants using about 15 million board feet of container grade logs; and the other three produced commercial, utility, and special type veneer from about 5 million board feet of high-grade veneer logs. Most of the plants active in 1958 did not maintain their usual levels of operation. The mill closures, as well as the lower production of the active plants, were caused mainly by uncertain business conditions, stiff competition from other areas and products, and a short supply of quality veneer timber.

Total veneer log receipts at Lake States mills were about  $57\frac{1}{2}$  million board feet, a decline of 38 percent from 1956. Beech, maple, and birch declined the most, dropping off by 68, 56, and 40 percent, respectively. Imports from other states and Canada declined 73 and 49 percent, respectively. Standard grade veneer plants received approximately  $44\frac{1}{2}$  million board feet of the total; the remaining 13 million board feet were channeled to plants producing container veneers. In addition container plants received 11,000 cords of bolts for producing heading stock.

Geographic origin and destination of veneer logs received  
by Lake States plants, 1958

| Species                   | Percent of veneer logs originating from: |      |       |         |        |    | Percent of veneer logs received by: |       |       |
|---------------------------|--|------|-------|---------|--------|----|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|
|                           | Minn.                                    | Wis. | Mich. | Other   | Canada |    | Minn.                               | Wis.  | Mich. |
|                           |  |      |       | : U. S. | :      |    | mills                               | mills | mills |
| Aspen                     | 14                                       | 83   | 3     | -       | -      | 2  | 96                                  | 2     |       |
| Ash                       | 17                                       | 66   | 17    | -       | -      | 5  | 89                                  | 6     |       |
| Basswood                  | 39                                       | 43   | 15    | 3       | -      | 17 | 71                                  | 12    |       |
| Beech                     | -  | 4    | 96    | -       | -      | -  | 6                                   | 94    |       |
| Birch                     | 8  | 17   | 51    | -       | 24     | -  | 73                                  | 27    |       |
| Cottonwood                | 86                                       | 2    | 12    | -       | -      | 15 | 73                                  | 12    |       |
| Elm                       | 19                                       | 57   | 21    | 3       | -      | 2  | 78                                  | 20    |       |
| Maple, hard               | 2  | 47   | 43    | -       | 8      | -  | 75                                  | 25    |       |
| Maple, soft               | 4  | 52   | 34    | 10      | -      | 1  | 71                                  | 28    |       |
| Oak                       | 12                                       | 77   | 7     | 2       | 2      | -  | 98                                  | 2     |       |
| Walnut                    | -  | 73   | 27    | -       | -      | -  | -                                   | -     |       |
| Misc. hardwoods           | 6  | 39   | 44    | 9       | 2      | -  | 68                                  | 32    |       |
| All species               | 15                                       | 40   | 34    | 2       | 9      | 3  | 75                                  | 22    |       |
| Previous survey<br>(1956) | 10                                       | 33   | 43    | 3       | 11     | 2  | 73                                  | 25    |       |

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JULY 1959

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Production and imports of veneer logs, Lake States, 1958  
 (M board feet International 1/4-Inch Log Rule)

| Species and destination      | Production by states 1/ |               |               |               | Imports    |              |               | Total receipts |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
|                              | Minnesota               | Wisconsin     | Michigan      | Region        | Other 2/   | Canada       | Total imports |                |
|                              |                         |               |               |               | U. S.      |              |               |                |
| <b>Aspen</b>                 |                         |               |               |               |            |              |               |                |
| Minnesota                    | 26                      | -             | -             | 26            | -          | -            | -             | 26             |
| Wisconsin                    | 210                     | 1,443         | 28            | 1,681         | -          | -            | -             | 1,681          |
| Michigan                     | -                       | -             | 28            | 28            | -          | -            | -             | 28             |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>236</b>              | <b>1,443</b>  | <b>56</b>     | <b>1,735</b>  | -          | -            | -             | <b>1,735</b>   |
| <b>Ash</b>                   |                         |               |               |               |            |              |               |                |
| Minnesota                    | 28                      | -             | -             | 28            | -          | -            | -             | 28             |
| Wisconsin                    | 68                      | 384           | 67            | 519           | -          | -            | -             | 519            |
| Michigan                     | -                       | -             | 34            | 34            | -          | -            | -             | 34             |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>96</b>               | <b>384</b>    | <b>101</b>    | <b>581</b>    | -          | -            | -             | <b>581</b>     |
| <b>Basswood</b>              |                         |               |               |               |            |              |               |                |
| Minnesota                    | 1,245                   | -             | -             | 1,245         | -          | -            | -             | 1,245          |
| Wisconsin                    | 1,520                   | 3,137         | 292           | 4,949         | 253        | 1            | 254           | 5,203          |
| Michigan                     | 72                      | -             | 804           | 876           | -          | -            | -             | 876            |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>2,837</b>            | <b>3,137</b>  | <b>1,096</b>  | <b>7,070</b>  | <b>253</b> | <b>1</b>     | <b>254</b>    | <b>7,324</b>   |
| <b>Beech</b>                 |                         |               |               |               |            |              |               |                |
| Minnesota                    | -                       | -             | -             | -             | -          | -            | -             | -              |
| Wisconsin                    | -                       | 70            | 46            | 116           | -          | -            | -             | 116            |
| Michigan                     | -                       | -             | 1,714         | 1,714         | -          | -            | -             | 1,714          |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>-</b>                | <b>70</b>     | <b>1,760</b>  | <b>1,830</b>  | <b>-</b>   | <b>-</b>     | <b>-</b>      | <b>1,830</b>   |
| <b>Birch</b>                 |                         |               |               |               |            |              |               |                |
| Minnesota                    | 55                      | -             | -             | 55            | -          | -            | -             | 55             |
| Wisconsin                    | 1,155                   | 2,968         | 5,663         | 9,786         | -          | 2,776        | 2,776         | 12,562         |
| Michigan                     | 94                      | -             | 3,176         | 3,270         | -          | 1,319        | 1,319         | 4,589          |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>1,304</b>            | <b>2,968</b>  | <b>8,839</b>  | <b>13,111</b> | <b>-</b>   | <b>4,095</b> | <b>4,095</b>  | <b>17,206</b>  |
| <b>Cottonwood</b>            |                         |               |               |               |            |              |               |                |
| Minnesota                    | 325                     | -             | -             | 325           | -          | -            | -             | 325            |
| Wisconsin                    | 1,547                   | 31            | -             | 1,578         | -          | -            | -             | 1,578          |
| Michigan                     | -                       | -             | 264           | 264           | -          | -            | -             | 264            |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>1,872</b>            | <b>31</b>     | <b>264</b>    | <b>2,167</b>  | <b>-</b>   | <b>-</b>     | <b>-</b>      | <b>2,167</b>   |
| <b>Elm</b>                   |                         |               |               |               |            |              |               |                |
| Minnesota                    | 138                     | -             | -             | 138           | -          | -            | -             | 138            |
| Wisconsin                    | 1,567                   | 5,272         | 57            | 6,896         | 293        | -            | 293           | 7,189          |
| Michigan                     | -                       | -             | 1,828         | 1,828         | -          | 4            | 4             | 1,832          |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>1,705</b>            | <b>5,272</b>  | <b>1,885</b>  | <b>8,862</b>  | <b>293</b> | <b>4</b>     | <b>297</b>    | <b>9,159</b>   |
| <b>Maple, hard</b>           |                         |               |               |               |            |              |               |                |
| Minnesota                    | -                       | -             | -             | -             | -          | -            | -             | -              |
| Wisconsin                    | 250                     | 4,886         | 1,367         | 6,503         | 25         | 688          | 713           | 7,216          |
| Michigan                     | -                       | -             | 2,164         | 2,164         | -          | 188          | 188           | 2,352          |
| <u>Exported<sup>3/</sup></u> | -                       | -             | 974           | 974           | -          | -            | -             | -              |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>250</b>              | <b>4,886</b>  | <b>4,505</b>  | <b>9,641</b>  | <b>25</b>  | <b>876</b>   | <b>901</b>    | <b>9,568</b>   |
| <b>Maple, soft</b>           |                         |               |               |               |            |              |               |                |
| Minnesota                    | 19                      | -             | -             | 19            | -          | -            | -             | 19             |
| Wisconsin                    | 78                      | 1,302         | 157           | 1,537         | 242        | 3            | 245           | 1,782          |
| Michigan                     | -                       | -             | 684           | 684           | -          | 4            | 4             | 688            |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>97</b>               | <b>1,302</b>  | <b>841</b>    | <b>2,240</b>  | <b>242</b> | <b>7</b>     | <b>249</b>    | <b>2,489</b>   |
| <b>Oak</b>                   |                         |               |               |               |            |              |               |                |
| Minnesota                    | -                       | -             | -             | -             | -          | -            | -             | -              |
| Wisconsin                    | 606                     | 3,814         | 309           | 4,729         | 103        | 86           | 189           | 4,918          |
| Michigan                     | -                       | 80            | -             | 80            | -          | -            | -             | 80             |
| <u>Exported<sup>3/</sup></u> | -                       | -             | 36            | 36            | -          | -            | -             | -              |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>606</b>              | <b>3,894</b>  | <b>345</b>    | <b>4,845</b>  | <b>103</b> | <b>86</b>    | <b>189</b>    | <b>4,998</b>   |
| <b>Walnut</b>                |                         |               |               |               |            |              |               |                |
| Minnesota                    | -                       | -             | -             | -             | -          | -            | -             | -              |
| Wisconsin                    | -                       | -             | -             | -             | -          | -            | -             | -              |
| Michigan                     | -                       | -             | -             | -             | -          | -            | -             | -              |
| <u>Exported<sup>3/</sup></u> | -                       | 172           | 65            | 237           | -          | -            | -             | -              |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>-</b>                | <b>172</b>    | <b>65</b>     | <b>237</b>    | <b>-</b>   | <b>-</b>     | <b>-</b>      | <b>-</b>       |
| <b>Misc. species</b>         |                         |               |               |               |            |              |               |                |
| Minnesota                    | 2                       | -             | -             | 2             | -          | -            | -             | 2              |
| Wisconsin                    | 26                      | 181           | 92            | 299           | -          | -            | -             | 299            |
| Michigan                     | -                       | -             | 89            | 89            | 40         | 11           | 51            | 140            |
| <u>Exported<sup>3/</sup></u> | -                       | -             | 20            | 20            | -          | -            | -             | -              |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>28</b>               | <b>181</b>    | <b>201</b>    | <b>410</b>    | <b>40</b>  | <b>11</b>    | <b>51</b>     | <b>441</b>     |
| <b>All species</b>           |                         |               |               |               |            |              |               |                |
| Minnesota                    | 1,838                   | -             | -             | 1,838         | -          | -            | -             | 1,838          |
| Wisconsin                    | 7,027                   | 23,488        | 8,078         | 38,593        | 916        | 3,554        | 4,470         | 43,063         |
| Michigan                     | 166                     | 80            | 10,785        | 11,031        | 40         | 1,526        | 1,566         | 12,597         |
| <u>Exported<sup>3/</sup></u> | -                       | 172           | 1,095         | 1,267         | -          | -            | -             | -              |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>9,031</b>            | <b>23,740</b> | <b>19,958</b> | <b>52,729</b> | <b>956</b> | <b>5,080</b> | <b>6,036</b>  | <b>57,498</b>  |

<sup>1/</sup> Vertical columns of figures under box heading "Production by states" represents the quantity of veneer logs cut in each state.

<sup>2/</sup> Central and western states.

<sup>3/</sup> Veneer logs shipped to mills outside Lake States region.